Notes & News

Range Extensions of Two Panamic Gastropods

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During a collecting trip to Baja California, Mexico, from December 26, 1959, to January 4, 1960, range extensions of two gastropods previously known only from Central America were discovered.

MITRA ERYTHROGRAMMA TOMLIN, 1931

Mitra erythrogramma Tomlin is reported by Keen (1958) as having the range "Nicaragua to Colombia". On December 31, 1959, a specimen was collected at Bahia San Luis Gonzaga, Baja California, Mexico. It was collected by lantern light at night on an extremely low tide. It was crawling on the sand between two sand bars in a channel of moderately swiftly draining water about two inches deep.

A tentative field identification was made and later was confirmed by Dr. Myra Keen at Stanford University. This single specimen has also been compared with specimens of Mitra erythrogramma in several private collections and with material in the Los Angeles County Museum.

The previous range, when rounded off to the nearest degree of latitude, would be from 7°N. to 13°N. (The southern boundary of Colombia and the northern boundary of Nicaragua.)

Bahia San Luis Gonzaga is located at approximately 30°N. latitude which makes this an extension of approximately 17° and about 900 miles northward of the previously reported range.

CRASSISPIRA GRANDIMACULATA (C. B. ADAMS, 1852)

A single specimen of this species was collected at low tide under a rock at Puertecitos, Baja California, Mexico, on December 28, 1959. A field determination of Crassispira sp. was made and later the specimen was sent to Dr. Myra Keen, who made the specific determination.

The previous range is given by Keen (loc. cit.) as "Nicaragua to Panama". If one takes

the southern boundary of Panama and the northern boundary of Nicaragua and rounds them off to the nearest degree of latitude, the range would be from 9°N. to 13°N. latitude. When the range is extended to Puertecitos, which is located approximately 30°N., it is an extension of 17° or about 900 miles northward.

The two specimens discussed are in the author's personal collection.

Generous assistance from friends and institutions and especially from Dr. Myra Keen is gratefully acknowledged.

LITERATURE CITED

Keen, A. Myra

1958. Sea shells of tropical West America. Stanford Univ. Press, XI, 624 p., illus.

Research Request

This is a call upon the kind assistance of all readers of The Veliger to place collections of egg masses or any observations or notes on reproductive or breeding habits of Californian Marine Prosobranchs at my disposal for working up a monograph on prosobranch reproduction from the whole world.

I have collected material for this purpose for over 13 years and I have studied personally the egg masses and development of more than 350 species of Prosobranchs in East Greenland, Scandinavia, the Canary Islands, West Africa, Florida, California, and the Persian Gulf; comprehensive collections from the Antarctic, Australia, Chile, and several other places were given me on loan.

Still several gaps persist, which should be filled up before completing the manuscript. All material sent me will be treated carefully and returned after examination; full credit will be given to all collectors or observers when the monograph is published. Any expenses in sending material from California to Elsinore will be gladly refunded from this laboratory.

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